

Application No. 09/763,199  
Reply dated November 18, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated May 18, 2004

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

#### **Description of amendments**

Claims 49-53 are now pending and under examination. Applicant has cancelled claims 12-48. No new matter has been added.

New claims 49-53 are supported by the application as originally filed (see, for example, the specification at paragraphs 9-11, 24 and 25).

#### **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 12-14, 18-23, 30-36, and 40-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Loeffler (U.S. Patent 5,560,461) in view of Madsac (U.S. Patent 4,531,984). Claims 15-17, 24-29, 37-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Loeffler in view of Madsac and further in view of two other references. The rejections are rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 12-48.

New claims 49-53 are patentable over the cited references, because the cited references do not disclose the limitation of reducing penetration of sulfur particles into said first friction surface to maintain a constant coefficient of friction by, for example, nitride hardening said first synchro ring to form one of a non-metallic  $\gamma'$ -connecting layer and a non-metallic  $\epsilon$ -connecting on said first friction surface.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

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If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any necessary fees or deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (CAM #095309.49630US).

Respectfully submitted,

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